REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 3, 2004. Claims 4, 9, 30, and 35 are in the application, all of which are independent. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 8, 10 to 29, 31 to 34, and 36 to 52 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 4 and 9 have been amended, *inter alia*, to contain the subject matter of Claim 1. Claims 30 and 35 have been amended, *inter alia*, to contain the subject matter of Claim 26. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 27 to 29, 33 to 37, and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,243,472 (O'Neill) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,759,803 (Dauncey). Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over O'Neill in view of Dauncey, and further in view of JP 11-199376 (JP '376). Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over O'Neill in view of Dauncey, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,293,371 (Kokta). Claims 1 to 3, 7 to 11, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over O'Neill in view of Dauncey, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,603,762 (Kokune) or page 8 of the present specification. Claims 4 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over O'Neill in view of Dauncey, and further in view of Kokune or page 8 of the present specification, and further in view of JP 11-228280 (JP '280). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over O'Neill in view of Dauncey, and further in view of Kokune or page 8 of the present specification, and further in view of JP '376. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over O'Neill in view of Dauncey, and further in view of Kokune or page 8 of the present specification, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,902,394 (Burkhart). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention as recited by Claims 4 and 30, a flow adjusting means is provided stationarily in the melt to make the flow of the melt inclined toward the center of rotation and/or the liquid surface of the melt.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied documents, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed feature as recited in Claims 4 and 30.

The Office Action states that JP '280's baffle plate 5 reads on the flow adjusting means of the present invention. However, Applicants submit that the baffle plate 5 of JP '280 is not provided stationarily in the melt. The baffle plate 5 is attached to the inner peripheral surface of the crucible 4, and rotates together with the crucible 4. See Abstract and Figs. 2 and 3 of JP '280.

According to a feature of the invention as recited by Claims 9 and 35, the substrate comprises at least a group of substrates arranged at stated intervals, in a direction which falls at a right angle with the axis of the center of rotation of the crucible, such that a straight line drawn from a center of a surface of each respective substrate in the group of substrates to the axis of the center of rotation of the crucible falls at a right angle with the surface and falls at a right angle with the axis of the center of rotation of the crucible. See, for example, Fig. 12 of the subject application.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied documents, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed feature as recited in Claims 9 and 35.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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